



SOKA University

Discover your potential



Towards the 50th Founding Anniversary

Soka University Grand Design Initiative

April 1, 2010

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Introduction

Since its founding in 1971, Soka University has evolved through its ceaseless reforms to embody its founding principles as the highest seat of learning for humanistic education.

Soka University has now developed its Grand Design Initiative by reviewing the past legacies and achievements, in order to illustrate the objectives of Soka University towards its 50th founding anniversary in 2020 based on the following pillars:

- 1.To devote every effort to smoothly start new faculties and curricula
- 2.To introduce and promote active learning that bridges classroom and real world
- 3.To review the admission system and develop unique recruitment strategies

The university will endeavor to achieve the goals set forth in the Grand Design Initiative to be an advanced model university.

Soka University Grand Design Initiative

The Soka University Grand Design Initiative represents its strategic goals and plans for the coming ten years in order for the University to continue to be an attractive and competitive university in the context of the declining birth rate and growing diversity of the Japanese society. As concrete initiatives to be taken towards Academic Year (AY) 2020, the university has set up seven subcommittees and classified University discussions into the following areas of focus: Education Strategy, Research Strategy, Globalization Strategy, Student Support Strategy, Lifelong Education and Correspondence Education, as well as plans to support those strategies: Finance Plan, Administration Plan, and Public Relations Plan.



Daisaku Ikeda,
Founder of Soka University

Profile

Daisaku Ikeda, born in Tokyo on January 2, 1928, graduated from Fuji Junior College, and is the Honorary President of the Soka Gakkai and the President of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI). Among the institutions he has founded are Soka University, Soka Women's College, Soka University of America, the Soka Schools System, the Min-On Concert Association, the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. He has dedicated his life to the promotion of peace, culture, and education, and has engaged in dialogue with the world's foremost thinkers and leaders.

Ikeda is the recipient of the United Nations Peace Award, the National Order of the Southern Cross from the Republic of Brazil, the Honorary Cross of Science and Arts from the Austrian Ministry of Education, the Kenya Oral Literature Award, and World Poet Laureate Award, as well as a number of academic honors from universities and academic institutions.

Ikeda has published several works, including *The Human Revolution* (12 volumes) and *The New Human Revolution*. He has also published dialogues such as *Choose Life* with Arnold Toynbee, *Dawn After Dark* with René Huyghe, *Before It Is Too Late* with Aurelio Peccei, *A Lifelong Quest for Peace* with Linus Pauling, *Dialogue between Citizens of the World* with Norman Cousins, and *Moral Lessons of the 20th Century* with Mikhail Gorbachev. Ikeda has also published books for youth such as *Discussion on Youth*, and a series of illustrated children's storybooks, including *The Cherry Tree*.



Hideo Yamamoto,
President of Soka University

Message

We are in the 21st century that we have long looked forward to with hope. The reality, however, is that we face ever-growing chaos in every sector of society, including in field of education.

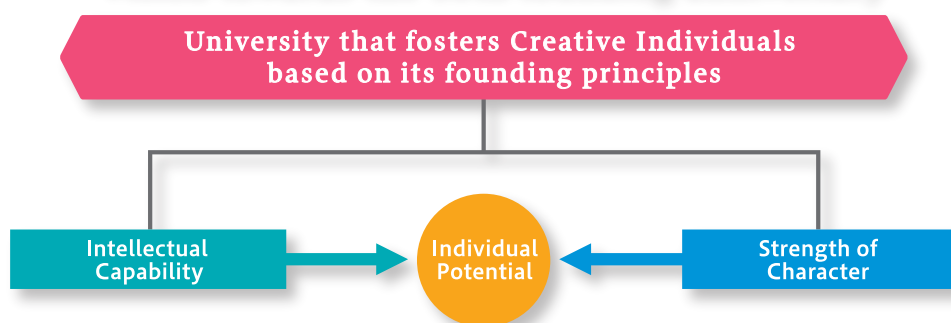
In a society filled with a sense of stagnation, professionals who are engaged in higher education have the responsibility of raising capable individuals who can transform such circumstances. Throughout the years, the mission of Soka University has been to foster Creative Individuals who can embody the founding principles of the University and create new value in society.

The Soka University Grand Design Initiative is to represent strategies embodying the continuing mission of Soka University towards its 50th founding anniversary in 2020. I am determined to establish a new history and legacy with the unity of faculty, staff, and students as well as cooperation with people involved with Soka University, upholding the principle of "student-first" as has been its tradition since founding.

Objectives of Soka University towards its 50th founding anniversary and Soka University Grand Design Initiative

- ① Soka University will become the University to foster Creative Individuals based on its founding principles towards its 50th founding anniversary.
- ② Soka University declares that the power that each and every student possesses is Individual Potential.
- ③ The education at Soka University enhances students' Intellectual Capability and Strength of Character and enables them to discover and fulfill their Individual Potentials.
- ④ Intellectual Capability means having skills to analyze, integrate, and create based on reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities.
- ⑤ Strength of Character means having the capacity to put belief into practice and to collaborate with others.
- ⑥ Soka University divides the time towards the 50th founding anniversary into three periods and announces its Action Plan every year based on the contents decided in the subcommittees under the Grand Design Initiative.
- ⑦ Soka University will leverage its brand image by effectively disseminating its objectives towards the 50th founding anniversary and the Grand Design Initiative
- ⑧ All faculty, staff, and students will make tireless efforts to embody the vision towards its 50th founding anniversary not only on the university-wide scale, but at the level of faculty/department, office, and individual.

Vision towards the 50th founding anniversary



How does Soka University enhance students' Intellectual Capability?

Soka University will foster students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, so that students can apply these skills to analyze, integrate, and create. These skills of analyzing, integrating, and creating are defined as Intellectual Capability. Based on this understanding, Soka University will take the following three initiatives:

1 Development of Educational System and Programs by the newly launched School for Excellence in Education Development (SEED)

SEED was launched for the purpose of facilitating program development, class management, and assessment / improvement in order to enhance the quality of undergraduate education. SEED serves as the main driver behind evaluating learning outcomes.

2 Enhancement of Learning Support System at SPACe

In line with the opening of the Hall of Learning, Global Square, in 2013, SPACe will be launched. SPACe will offer support to develop students' writing skills and language proficiency, leading to the enhancement of skills to analyze, integrate, and create.

3 Reorganization of Faculties

A Social Care Major will be launched in the faculty of Humanities in the first stage. To meet the demands of the times, Soka University will establish a new faculty to embody its educational objectives in a more explicit way.

How does Soka University enhance students' intellectual capability?

Soka University has defined Strength of Character to mean "capacity to put belief into practice" of those individuals who tirelessly create new values in whatever the circumstances, and "to collaborate with others" of those who exert their wisdom while tackling issues that humanity faces. Based on this understanding, Soka University will take the following three initiatives:

1 Systematization of Soka Program 21

Soka University will systematize a course category "Soka Program 21" centering on the University's founding principles and humanism in undergraduate education. As Soka University is the sole institution of higher education in Japan in which students can learn the philosophy of the Founder, this program will play a central role in providing distinctive education and serving as the foundation to develop students' Strength of Character.

2 Enhancement of communication skills

In order to enhance students' Strength of Character, SEED will be the driving force behind enhancing students' communication and leadership skills by actively employing educational methods such as project seminars, debating, and collaborative learning.

3 Promotion of international strategies

By expanding the opportunities of cross-cultural exchange in a planned manner, Soka University will establish a system through which students can learn a variety of values and perspectives in the world, and which will enable as many students as possible to study abroad. The University will also take further initiatives to accommodate international students.

The Vision of Soka University towards its 50th anniversary and Soka University Grand Design Initiative

Soka University's aspirations towards its 50th anniversary can be stated in one phrase: A University that fosters creative individuals based on its founding principles.

[The Founding Principles of Soka University]

- 1. Be the highest seat of learning for humanistic education
- 2. Be the cradle of a new culture
- 3. Be a fortress for the peace for humankind

The cornerstone of Soka University is its founding principles. The continuing mission of Soka University is to foster Creative Individuals who contribute to society based on the University's founding principles.

The fundamental competencies of creative individuals are Intellectual Capability and Strength of Character. By developing Intellectual Capability and Strength of Character, individual potential and mission will be discovered. Soka University here declares that the power that each individual student possesses is Individual Potential. The education offered at Soka University must enhance students' Intellectual Capability and Strength of Character to discover and fulfill their Individual Potentials. Creative Individuals are the ones who exert themselves to consistently develop their own personality, and the University dedicates itself to fostering such capable individuals.

[To foster creative individuals]

To develop the Soka University Grand Design Initiative, the University has received cooperation from a number of people including faculty, staff, students, graduates, and parents, and conducted interviews with them. Based on the result of those interviews, the University has participated in a series of discussions and reached the conclusion that the key word connecting and transcending the time from its founding to the present and to the future of Soka University is Creative Individuals. The founder talked about Creative Individuals in his grand design to found Soka University as follows (in summary):

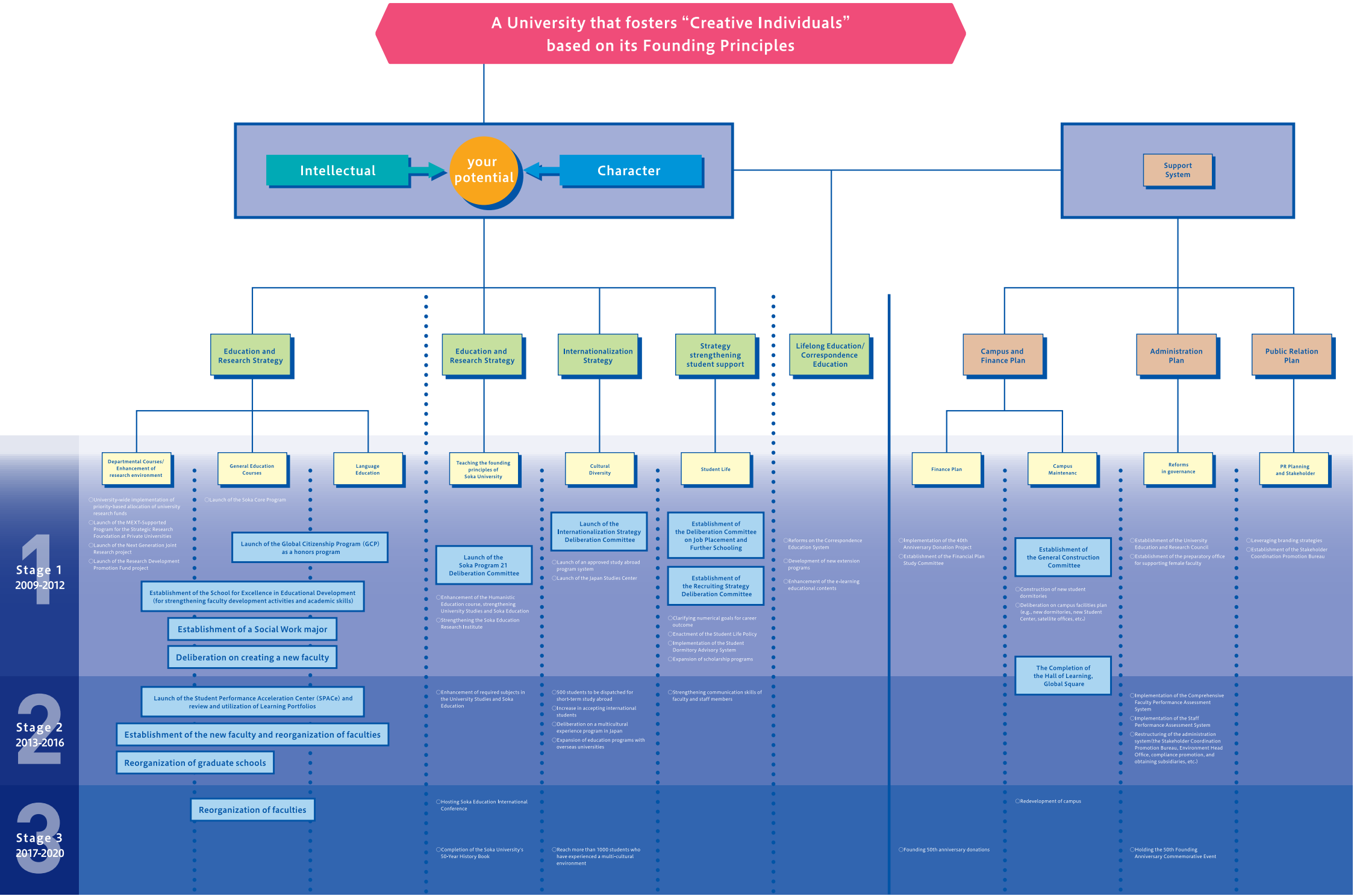
It is imperative for universities to foster individuals contributing to the society, and those who dedicate themselves to the progress and development of nations and the world as universities should not exist as being detached from the real society and nation. Truly contributing individuals are, however, not regarded as ones who only excel in knowledge or technology, because such individuals are merely counted as pieces of the giant mechanism of a nation state. Truly expected ones are, instead, excellent individuals who possess a noble and individualistic personality and lofty ideals so that they can employ knowledge and technology effectively, and those individuals can be described as innovative and creative individuals. (May 3, 1968)

In the Grand Design Initiative, the University categorized these initiatives to enhance Intellectual Capability and Strength of Character, the foundation of creative individuals, into four strategies (i.e., education, research, international, and student support), and further developed those contents in detail. The University will advance these initiatives by strengthening governance and enhancing facilities, meanwhile establishing a robust management foundation. The chart on the left shows the compilation of these strategies and plans dividing the period towards 2020 into three stages.

To effectively disseminate the outcomes of our efforts taken in this Initiative, we will leverage its brand image. In addition to its motto, as set forth on the last page of this leaflet, we will invent icons that can be remembered by stakeholders. Meanwhile, the University will enhance the contents of its courses in lifelong education and correspondence education. We will clarify which entities will take on these strategies and initiatives and keep updating the progress to implement them.

We will advance towards fostering Creative Individuals with the unity of faculty, staff, and students who think and exchange options from their own points of views on what to do to better Soka University to fulfill the vision of Soka University towards its 50th founding.

Soka University will step forward to continue to be an attractive university for the many with the idea of “from sharing the ideals together to putting them into practice together”



Soka University's motto as part of its branding strategies:

“Discover your potential”

This motto represents the aspiration of Soka University to discover students' potential and foster Creative Individuals.

History of Soka University

1964	The announcement of the grand design of Soka University
1971	The University opened with three faculties: Economics, Law, and Letters.
1975	The Graduate Schools of Economics, Law, and Letters were established.
1976	The Faculties of Business Administration and Education were established. The Division of Correspondence Education was established with two faculties: Economics and Law. The Institute of Japanese Language was established.
1982	The Faculty of Education was established within the Division of Correspondence Education.
1985	Soka Women's College was established.
1988	The Department of Humanities was established in the Faculty of Letters.
1990	The Departments of Japanese Language and Literature and Foreign Languages were established in the Faculty of Letters.
1991	The Faculty of Engineering (including Departments of Information Systems Science and Bioengineering) was established.
1995	Master's degree programs were established in the Graduate School of Engineering.
2003	The Department of Environmental Engineering for Symbiosis was established in the Faculty of Engineering.
April 2004	Soka Law School was established.
April 2007	The Department of Humanities in the Faculty of Letters was established.
April 2008	The Graduate School of Teacher Education was established.

Soka University

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